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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/621,671	07/17/2003	Robert Bruscini	B0227.70000US00	2067

7590 07/19/2005  
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Boston, MA 02210

EXAMINER

GREEN, BRIAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3611

DATE MAILED: 07/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/621,671

**Applicant(s)**

BRUSCINI, ROBERT

**Examiner**

Brian K. Green

**Art Unit**

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 14-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12, 14-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on July 7, 2005 has been entered.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 4-8, 10-12, 14, and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Quant (U.S. Patent No. 2,221,926).

Quant shows in figures 1-7 an award bar and holder combination comprising a generally C-shaped holder (10) having sidewalls (12) that overlap the side edges of the award bars (17), a pressure member (14,16) in the holder for bearing against the award bars (17) causing the bars (17) to press against the sidewalls (12), and at least one fastener (A or B,B') mounted on the back of the holder for securing the holder to a support. As broadly defined, Quant shows in figure 6 that the pressure member includes smooth camming surfaces (the member 16 at the upper end of 14 and the member 16 at the bottom end of 14, see fig. 6). In regard to claim 5, the holder includes a back panel (11) and the pressure member (14,16) is considered to be an integral

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part of the back panel. Further, Quant discloses on page 2, column 1, lines 17-20, the idea of forming the pressure member directly in the back panel. In regard to claim 6, as broadly defined, the pressure member is welded to the back panel so it is considered to be a segment of the back panel. Further, Quant discloses on page 2, column 1, lines 17-20, the idea of forming the pressure member directly in the back panel. In regard to claim 7, Quant discloses on page 2, column 1, lines 17-20, the idea of forming the pressure member directly in the back panel. In this case, the rectangular opening used to form the upper member (16, see fig. 6) is considered to be a first rectangular opening in the back panel, the opening used to form the lower member (16, see fig. 6) is considered to be a second rectangular opening, and the middle member (16) located between the first and second openings is considered to be the pressure member that bows forwardly at each end of the pressure member, i.e. the attached end portion slopes upwardly/forwardly and the free end portion slopes upwardly/forwardly. In regard to claim 8, Quant shows in figures 1 and 2 at least one fastener (A or B,B'). In regard to claim 10, Quant shows in figures 1 and 3 that the holder is at least twice as long as the award bar. In regard to claim 11, Quant shows in figure 6 that the middle member (16) projects forwardly from the front side of the back panel. In regard to claim 12, Quant discloses on page 2, column 1, lines 17-20, the idea of forming the pressure member directly in the back panel so there would be three pressure members (16) and the pressure members would engage three award bars (17), see figures 1,2, and 6. In regard to claim 14, Quant discloses on page 2, column 1, lines 17-20, the idea of forming the pressure member directly in the back panel and therefore the back panel, side panels, and at least one pressure member would be integrally formed from a single strip of metal. In regard to claim 16, Quant shows in figure 6 that the pressure member includes portions (the

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upper and lower members 16) which project in a forward direction and the flat portion (portion 14) of the pressure member is parallel to the back panel. In regard to claim 17, Quant shows in figure 6 that the pressure member (16) includes a smooth camming surface (the portion of 16 adjacent the free end of 16 and the portion of 16 adjacent to the connected end of 16) at each end of the pressure member.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quant (U.S. Patent No. 2,221,926) in view of Harn (U.S. Patent No. 3,192,655) or Elkies (U.S. Patent No. 2,495,577).

Quant discloses the applicant's basic inventive concept except for making the attachment member in the form of a pin attached to the holder and a clasp. Harn shows in figures 1-3 the idea of making an attachment member in the form of a pin (13) attached to a holder and a clasp (32). Elkies shows in figures 1-3 the idea of making an attachment member in the form of a pin (20) attached to a holder and a clasp (21). In view of the teachings of Harn or Elkies it would have been obvious to one in the art to modify Quant by making the attachment member in the form of a pin and clasp since this would allow the display device to be attached to and removed from an article of clothing in an easier and faster manner.

Claims 4-8,10-12,14,16-18, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quant (U.S. Patent No. 2,221,926) in view of Bowder (U.S. Patent No. 2,550,763).

Quant shows in figures 1-7 an award bar and holder combination comprising a generally C-shaped holder (10) having sidewalls (12) that overlap the side edges of the award bars (17), a pressure member (14,16) in the holder for bearing against the award bars (17) causing the bars (17) to press against the sidewalls (12), and at least one fastener (A or B,B') mounted on the back of the holder for securing the holder to a support. In regard to claim 4, Quant does not disclose providing a smooth camming surface at each end of the pressure member. Bowder shows in figures 1-5 a holder that includes a pressure member (28) that includes a smooth camming surface (the opposite ends of the pressure member 28, see figure 2) at the opposite ends of the pressure member. In view of the teachings of Bowder it would have been obvious to one in the art to modify Quant by replacing the multiple pressure members with the single pressure member (28) since this would allow the pressure member and holder combination to be made in an easier and less expensive manner, would allow the indicia members to be biased in a more even and consistent manner, and would allow the indicia members to be removed without tool (20). In regard to claim 5, the holder includes a back panel (11) and the pressure member (14,16) is considered to be an integral part of the back panel. Further, Quant discloses on page 2, column 1, lines 17-20, the idea of forming the pressure member directly in the back panel. In regard to claim 6, as broadly defined, the pressure member is welded to the back panel so it is considered to be a segment of the back panel. Further, Quant discloses on page 2, column 1,

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lines 17-20, the idea of forming the pressure member directly in the back panel. In regard to claim 7, Quant does not disclose providing a pair or rectangular opening in the back panel in order to form the pressure member. Quant discloses on page 2, column 1, lines 17-20, the idea of forming the pressure member directly in the back panel. When the pressure member of Bowder is formed directly in the back panel of Quant there would be a rectangular opening on each side of the pressure member. In view of the teachings of Bowder it would have been obvious to one in the art to modify Quant by replacing the multiple pressure members with the single pressure member (28) since this would allow the pressure member and holder combination to be made in an easier and less expensive manner, would allow the indicia members to be biased in a more even and consistent manner, and would allow the indicia members to be removed without tool (20). In regard to claim 7, Quant shows in figure 7 lips (13,13) formed on the holder. In regard to claim 8, the attaching member (A or B,B') is attached to the back side of the back panel. In regard to claim 10, the holder is at least twice as long as the award bars (17), i.e. the holder holds three of the award bars (17). In regard to claim 11, the pressure member includes portions (16) which project forwardly of the front side of the back panel. In regard to claim 12, it is considered within one skilled in the art to provide additional pressure members since this would allow additional letters to be added to the holder, i.e. five, ten, or more letters to be held within the holder in a more consistent manner. In regard to claim 14, Quant discloses on page 2, lines 17-21 that the pressure members elements (16) could be formed directly in the back panel (11). In regard to claim 17, Bowder shows that the pressure member comprises a smooth camming surface at each end, see figure 2. In regard to claim 18, Bowder shows that the pressure member bows out and includes a middle section which is substantially parallel to the

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back panel, see figure 2. In regard to claim 21, Bowder shows in figure 2 that each end of the pressure member extends out in a direction non-parallel with each other.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quant (U.S. Patent No. 2,221,926) in view of Bowder as applied to claim 8 above and further in view of Harn (U.S. Patent No. 3,192,655) or Elkies (U.S. Patent No. 2,495,577).

Quant in view of Bowder disclose the applicant's basic inventive concept except for making the attachment member in the form of a pin attached to the holder and a clasp. Harn shows in figures 1-3 the idea of making an attachment member in the form of a pin (13) attached to a holder and a clasp (32). Elkies shows in figures 1-3 the idea of making an attachment member in the form of a pin (20) attached to a holder and a clasp (21). In view of the teachings of Harn or Elkies it would have been obvious to one in the art to modify Quant by making the attachment member in the form of a pin and clasp since this would allow the display device to be attached to and removed from an article of clothing in an easier and faster manner.

Claims 1-3, 15, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quant (U.S. Patent No. 2,221,926) in view of Bowder and Harn (U.S. Patent No. 3,192,655) or Elkies (U.S. Patent No. 2,495,577).

Quant shows in figures 1-7 an award bar and holder combination comprising a generally C-shaped holder (10) having sidewalls (12) that overlap the side edges of the award bars (17), a pressure member (14,16) in the holder for bearing against the award bars (17) causing the bars (17) to press against the sidewalls (12), and at least one fastener (A or B,B') mounted on the



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back of the holder for securing the holder to a support. In regard to claim 1, Quant does not disclose making the pressure member bow out of the panel in a forward direction at each end of the pressure member and extending to a middle section which is substantially parallel to the back panel and using a pin and clasp for attaching the holder to a support. Bowder shows in figures 1-5 a holder that includes a pressure member (28) that includes a pressure member which bows out of the panel in a forward direction at each end of the pressure member and extending to a middle section which is substantially parallel to the back panel, see figure 1. In view of the teachings of Bowder it would have been obvious to one in the art to modify Quant by replacing the multiple pressure members with the single pressure member (28) since this would allow the pressure member and holder combination to be made in an easier and less expensive manner, would allow the indicia members to be biased in a more even and consistent manner, and would allow the indicia members to be removed without tool (20). Quant discloses on page 2, column 1, lines 17-20, the idea of forming the pressure member directly in the back panel. Quant discloses the applicant's basic inventive concept except for making the attachment member in the form of a pin attached to the holder and a clasp. Harn shows in figures 1-3 the idea of making an attachment member in the form of a pin (13) attached to a holder and a clasp (32). Elkies shows in figures 1-3 the idea of making an attachment member in the form of a pin (20) attached to a holder and a clasp (21). In view of the teachings of Harn or Elkies it would have been obvious to one in the art to modify Quant by making the attachment member in the form of a pin and clasp since this would allow the display device to be attached to and removed from an article of clothing in an easier and faster manner. In regard to claim 15, Bowder shows that the pressure member comprises a smooth camming surface at each end, see figure 2. In regard to claim 19,

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Quant in view of Bowder does not disclose making the middle section parallel to the back section before an award bar is placed within the slide seat. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to make the middle section parallel to the back since the applicant fails to define any advantage to making the middle section parallel to the back section before an award bar is attached and the shape of the middle section before an award bar is attached as taught by Quant in view of Bowder would work equally well. In regard to claim 20, Bowder shows in figure 2 that each end of the pressure member extends out in a direction non-parallel with each other.

### *Response to Arguments*

Applicant's arguments filed July 7, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues that the device of Quant would not operate if modified to include the spring taught by Bowder since the release bar (20) would not work with the spring of Bowder. The examiner's position is that the spring of Bowder on the device of Quant would actually improve the device of Bowder. One of the advantage of making the pressure member of Quant into a single elongated spring, as taught by Bowder, is that this would allow the indicia members to be removed without the use of a separate tool/release bar (20), i.e. allow the indicia members to be removed in an easier and faster manner.

The applicant argues that Quant in view of Bowder do not disclose at least one pair of rectangular openings within the back panel defining between them the at least one pressure member as defined in claim 7. The examiner's position is that when the three pressure members (16) of Quant are replaced with a single pressure member as taught by Bowder, and the pressure member is formed directly in the back panel as taught by Quant, page 2, lines 17-21, then the

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back panel of Quant would include a pair of rectangular openings which are used to form the at least one pressure member.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian K. Green whose telephone number is (571) 272-6644. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7am-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris can be reached on (571) 272-6651. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
BRIAN K. GREEN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Bkg  
July 15, 2005